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2812

03500.012475.1

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Application of: |) | |
| KATSUMI NAKAGAWA, ET AL. |) | Examiner: S. Mulpuri |
| Application No.: 09/638,398 |) | Group Art Unit: 2812 |
| Filed: August 15, 2000 |) | |
| For: METHOD OF PRODUCING |) | |
| SEMICONDUCTOR MEMBER |) | |
| AND METHOD OF |) | |
| PRODUCING SOLAR CELL |) | August 13, 2003 |

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the document listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of the listed document is also enclosed.

CN 1056940C

This document was cited during prosecution of a Chinese Patent Application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the Chinese Office Action, dated June 27, 2003, is enclosed. In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that the document in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Moreover, this application

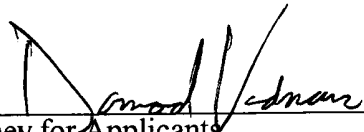
has received an Office Action on the merits but has not yet received either a final action or a Notice of Allowance. Accordingly, this Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). Consideration of the art cited herein is accordingly deemed proper, and such action is respectfully requested.

U.S. Patent No. 5,371,037, cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated August 11, 2000, is believed to be an English-language counterpart of the Chinese document. The concise explanation of relevance for the Chinese document is believed to be satisfied by its English-language counterpart and by the English-language abstract included with the reference. See MPEP §609.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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